(b) if so, what alternative plans have been or are being drawn up by the Ministry to allot time to private producers for programme on the new Satellite Channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have preferred an appeal in the Supreme Court of India against the said judgement. The software for the channels is presently being obtained by Doordarshan through its established methods viz. in-house productions, sponsored and commissioned programmes etc.

Boradcast/Telecast of Tamil Programmes

112. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state whether Government propose to take steps to broadcast/telecast Tamil years, months and dates during broadcasts/ telecasts in Tamil programmes over all India Radio and Doordarshan?:

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): There is no such proposal.

विदेशी समाचार एजेंसियों और उपग्रह दूरदर्शन के माध्यम से पश्चिमी संस्कृति का आधिपत्य

113. प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या विदेशी उपग्रह दूरदर्शन और विदेशी समाचार एजेंसियों के भारत में उन्मुक्त प्रवेश से पश्चिमी संस्कृति और पश्चिम की विचारधारा के आधिपत्य के खतरे की संभावना है; और

(ख) इस खतरे को रोकने और उसका मुकाबला करने से संबंध में सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय के राज्यमंत्री (श्री के॰ पी॰ सिंह देव): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) यद्यपि, विदेशी समाचार एजेंसियों को भारत में सीधे परिचालन की अनुमति नहीं दी जाती है तथापि विदेशी उपग्रह ट्रांसमीशन पर हमारा कोई नियंत्रण नहीं है। इसी बीच राष्ट्रीय तथा क्षेत्रीय स्तरों पर प्रमुखतः भारतीय कार्यक्रमों की हितकारी सामग्री उपलब्ध करवाने के लिए दूरदर्शन चैनलों के कार्यक्रमों की पुनःसंरचना की गई है जिससे कि इसके दर्शकों की रुचि को बनाया रखा जा सके।"

Rationalisation of Entertainment tax

114. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided recently to rationalise the entertainment Tax structure soon;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) the reasons due to which regional films are exempted from 'Entertaiment Tax'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) The Constituion vide Entry No. 62 of the State list provides complete powers to state government in the matter of levy of entertainment tax for exhibition of films. The Central Government do not have any statutory powers to issue directions to them in this regard.

Efficiency of PIB

115. DR. SHRIKANT . RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to slate:

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of the Press Information Bureau being modernised and computerised, its efficiency has not improved at all;

(b) the reasons for which the important Government news reach the newspapers faster through news agencies than through PIB;

(c) what is the criterion on which Government evaluate efficiency of PIB; and

(d) whether writing feature articles, releasing photo prints and organising press conferences are only measure of the efficiency of PIB, if not, whether there are other important determinants therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In a majority of cases the agency news items are based on the information/material supplied by PIB or briefings provided by PIB/ Ministry's officials.

(c) and (d) PIB acts as an interface between Government and the media. Drawing of publicity plans, advising Ministries/Department on their publicity approach, providing feedback to Decision makers and providing media/PR conse-ling to Government are other important measures that reflect the efficiency of PIB.

Establishing the Metro Channel and Earth Transponder at Ahmedabad

116. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently announced to introduce second Metro Channel at Ahmedabad in Gujarat;

(b) if so, by when it would start functioning;

(c) whether Government propose to establish an 'Earth Transponder' connected with INSAT for Ahmedabad in Gujarat; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Arrangements for relay of Metro Channel Service is expected to be set up at Ahmedabad during 1994.

(c) and (d) An earth station has already been set up at Ahmedabad for uplinking of Regional TV programmes produced at DDK, Ahmedabad via INSAT and are relayed by all TV transmiters in the State of Gujarat.

Telecast of Budget Speech by Star TV

117. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow Star TV to telecast the Budget Speech of the Minister of Finance direct from the Parliament House; and

(b) if so, what are the conditions, for such telecast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) This Ministry is not aware of such a decision.

(b) Does not arise.

Mutual Sale of Programmes Between Doordarshan and Star T.V.

118. SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Doordarshan and Star T.V. are discussing modalities regarding the mutual sale of programmes; and

(b) if so, the details of the modalities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, sir.

(b) Does not arise.